

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 17, as follows:

A suction-dewatering mold 10 shown in Fig. 1 was prepared. The mold 10 has a wire net 10a shaped in conformity to the contour of a catalyst carrier and having fins 11 sticking out from its outer surface to make slits 200 in an angular U-shape. The mold 10 exerts suction from the outside toward the inside through the wire net 10a.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 10, as follows:

Fig. 3 is a cross-section of which the catalyst carrier holding member 101 and 103 are fitted between a catalyst carrier 102 and a casing 104. The casing 104 is provided with a body section 104 and tapered sections 104a and 104c. The halves 101 and 103 are symmetrical except for their parting faces, each having a body section 101b or 103b and tapered sections 101a or 103a and 101c or 103c on the upper and the lower ends of the body section 101b or 103b, respectively. As a result, the two halves 101 and 103, when joined together, get narrower in the upper and the lower tapered sections than in the body section. The contour of the upper and the lower tapered sections (101a 103a, 101c and 103c) agrees with the inner shape of the tapered sections 104a and 104c of the casing 104, and the axial length of the body sections 101b and 103b agrees with the length of the catalyst carrier 102. Therefore, the catalyst carrier 102 held in the holding member is prevented from moving in the axial direction. Since the contour of the joined halves 101 and 103 is substantially the same as the inner shape of the casing 104, they are restrained by the casing 104. As a result, the catalyst carrier 102 held in the holding member is restrained from moving both in the axial direction and in the radial direction.